

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10720

E 9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN KS VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELA RECOGNIZES NORTH KOREA

REF: CARACAS 10665, 9600, AND 9155

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GOV OCTOBER 28 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD IT IS NECESSARY TO PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN PEOPLES, HAVE AGREED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE JURIDICAL EQUALITY OF STATES, OF RECIPROCAL BENEFIT AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, OF NON-INTERVENTION AND OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. FONMINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIAZ GONZALEZ TOLD POL COUNSELOR OCTOBER 29 THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN VENEZUELA AND NORTH KOREA WILL BE "NOMINAL"; THAT THERE WILL BE NO RESIDENT NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN CARACAS NOR VENEZUELAN MISSION IN PYONGYANG, AT LEAST FOR SOME TIME TO COME; AND THAT DIAZ GONZALEZ HAD TOLD ROK VICE MINISTER LHO AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 28 THAT VENEZUELA'S RECOGNITION OF NORTH CONFIDENTIAL

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KOREA "WILL NOT ALTER VENEZUELA'S RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA."

3. SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR TOLD POL COUNSELOR OCTOBER 29 THAT RECOGNITION WAS NEGOTIATED BY THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA. HE SAID HE IS "DISGUSTED" WITH WHAT HE CALLED THE BOV'S "TWO-FACED" ATTITUDE. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT EXPECTED VENEZUELAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA TO COME BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT UNGA.

4. COMMENT. GIVEN VENEZUELA'S OFT-REITERATED POLICY OF WISHING TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ALL NATIONS, AND IN VIEW OF THE RECENT RELEASE FROM A NORTH KOREAN JAIL OF THE VENEZUELAN COMMUNIST POET ALI LAMEDA (CARACAS 9600), WHO IS STILL RECUPERATING IN ROMANIA, VENEZUELA'S RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA WAS ALMOST INEVITABLE (CARACAS 9155). IT WAS, HOWEVER, UNFORTUNATE THAT THE GOV CHOSE TO ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA JUST AS THE SOUTH KOREAN VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS VISITING CARACAS. LATTER'S VISIT WAS GIVEN NO LOCAL PUBLICITY, HOWEVER. END
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